

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

CONTENT, PROGRESS AND PEDAGOGY OF THE MODULE

- With a starting point in the historic human rights discussions in philosophy and domestic politics that continue to shape understanding and legal discourse, this course places the student in the middle of the modern international human rights law (IHRL) system, starting with the establishment of the United Nations, the proclamation of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and the creation of a series of core human rights treaties. The course focuses on understanding and analyzing individual and groups' rights under IHRL, from the viewpoint of the issues that currently challenge states' implementation of obligations under IHRL, including issues such as dominance and conflict, discrimination, arbitrary detention, displacement and mass migration, technology and capitalism. The course thus follows the establishment of legal and institutional frameworks, including treaties, customary law and other instruments, ensuring state obligations for international and regional protection and enforcement of human rights by individuals and other states, and looks at global individual protection in business and human rights (BHR). Specific rights will be considered such as equality, the rights to life and liberty, the prohibition on torture and other forms of ill-treatment, and economic, cultural and social rights in the context of current legal, political and social problems.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

KNOWLEDGE

- The history and philosophical underpinnings of human rights protection, its justification and critique
- The development, legal frameworks and institutions of the UN and regional human rights systems
- The main legal principles of IHRL, including universality and indivisibility of human rights
- The nine core UN treaties and other important IHRL instruments
- The legal concept of jurisdiction under IHRL
- States' negative and positive obligations in relation to human rights, and limitations of rights
- The protection of human rights within the field of business and human rights (BHR)
- The interaction between IHRL and national law

SKILLS

- Use the terminology and concepts of IHRL and BHR
- Independently identify and research IHRL problems and related sources of law
- Interpret and apply specific human rights provisions
- Identify relevant instruments and apply the principals of BHR
- Present and explain an analysis and findings in relation to a theoretical or practical problem under IHRL or BHR, orally and in writing
- Understand and challenge the deficiencies of the IHRL system

COMPETENCES

- Identifying and analysing natural rights concepts and how these influence modern legal discourse
- Identifying, analysing and discussing legal solutions to problems within the fields of IHRL and BHR
- Understanding and analysing the connection between IHRL, other areas of international law, and international relations
- Understanding the relationship between IHRL and BHR

- Advising governments, state authorities or other organizations on past, present and potential legal issues under IHRL, or advising on the role and responsibility of private enterprises
- Advising individuals on their rights under IHRL and how to access justice / remedies under IHRL
- Analyzing, researching and presenting an academic study of a legal problem under IHRL or BHR

TYPE OF INSTRUCTION

- Lectures, with interactive and problem-oriented discussion, as well as instruction in written and oral presentation

EXTENT AND EXPECTED WORKLOAD

- 270 hours

EXAMINATION

Name of exam	International Human Rights Law
Type of Exam	Oral exam based on a supplementary mini-project synopsis 20 minutes x number of students (including evaluation and feedback)
ECTS	10
Permitted aids	With certain aids: A clean copy of the mini-project can be brought into the exam and a single page per student for the presentation only, with keywords in point-form
Assessment	7-point grading scale
Type of grading	External examination
Criteria of assessment	The criteria of assessment are stated in the Examination Policies and Procedures

FACTS ABOUT THE MODULE

Danish title	Internationale menneskerettigheder
Module code	
Module type	Course
Duration	1 semester
Semester	Autumn
ECTS	10
Language of instruction	English
Empty-place Scheme	Yes
Location of the lecture	Campus Aalborg
Responsible for the module	Fenella Billing
Used in Curriculum for the Master's programme in LL.M. (Master of Laws), 2024 Curriculum for the Master's programme in Business Administration and Commercial Law, 2024	

ORGANISATION

Study Board	Study Board of Law
Department	Department of Law
Faculty	Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

LITERATURE

- Daniel Moeckli, Sangeeta Shah & Sandesh Sivakumaran (eds), International Human Rights Law (OUP, latest edition)
- Supplementary articles / publications announced at the beginning of the course
- Relevant treaties and other legal instruments